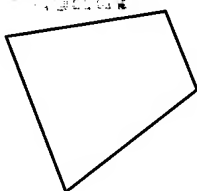




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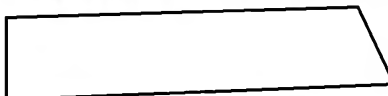
NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Trip Report - West Coast  
23-28 June 1958

Itinerary

23 June Depart Washington, D.C.  
24 June Lockheed MSD  
Palo Alto, California  
25 June BMD/USAF  
Los Angeles, California



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26 June Lockheed Aircraft Corporation  
Burbank, California



27 June Edwards AFB, California

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28 June Return to Washington, D.C.

1. Lockheed Missile Systems Division

a. During the visit to LMSD, Palo Alto, California, the second draft of the CORONA cover story was reviewed and discussed with [redacted] and Mr. James Plummer. Both consider the story to be adequate for their present needs but suggested that it should include the manner in which the [redacted] is to be serviced.

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This document contains information  
referring to [redacted]

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25X1 b. [ ] noted that an agreement had been reached with  
25X1 Ballistic Missiles Division/USAF to hold monthly program review meetings  
to uncover and make known any problem areas requiring outside assistance.  
[ ] thought it appropriate to have CORONA Headquarters personnel  
present at each of these meetings so that they could keep informed  
on the progress being made towards the operational date.

25X1 c. The balance of the visit consisted of a tour of the plant  
facilities and an explanation as to how they plan to [ ]  
[ ] at Sunnyvale. 25X1

2. Ballistic Missiles Division/USAF 25X1

b. Col. Sheppard also noted the fact that there is a definite  
need to strengthen the security within ARPA. He noted that each of  
the major aircraft companies have representatives on the ARPA scientific  
panel and these individuals sit in on discussions on programs being  
planned under the sponsorship of ARPA and, therefore, could very easily  
become knowledgeable of CORONA interests in the WS-117L program.  
He suggested that someone meet with Admiral Clark to emphasize the  
need for security on CORONA matters and that he was certain Admiral  
Clark would be most receptive to any suggestions towards strengthening  
their over-all security.

c. The need to educate Headquarters personnel in the area of  
missiles was discussed with Col. Sheppard and he suggested the best  
means for doing this would be to actually witness the count-down and  
launching of a Thor booster. During the month of July, there will  
be two such launchings from Patrick Air Force Base, Florida. The  
first is on the 9th of July and the second is the 23rd of July. The  
count-down, of course, begins two days prior to the actual launch.  
Col. Sheppard would be most happy to make the necessary arrangements  
but asks that the number of personnel visiting the site be kept to  
a minimum.

d. Within BMD, Col. Sheppard is the only one on a working level  
with whom we are permitted to do business. He is finding it extremely

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difficult to work alone and is attempting to seek assistance from General Ritland in obtaining additional personnel for his staff. Should he be successful, this would necessarily require additional clearances on an expedite basis.

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4. Lockheed Aircraft Corporation

a. A complete tour of Building 82 permitted the writer to observe the many Lockheed GUSTO models and to see firsthand the various tests which these models undergo. Also the writer had the first opportunity to observe a RAINBOW aircraft which clarified many questions which had arisen in my own mind as to the need for special explanation when exposed to the general public.

5.

a. The brief visit to this location enabled the writer to meet new personalities and to tour the plant assembly facility. The visit

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ended with a meeting with [ ] who apparently was not too familiar with the cover story used for CHALICE operations abroad. He was very pleased to learn about the most recent publicity efforts in the area of typhoon research and indicated that he was in high hopes of a break through which would lead to an increased capability in the area of aerial recon. Discussions with [ ] were restricted to the present CHALICE configuration and no mention was made of new aircraft proposals. His comments were merely an indication that he hoped we weren't being satisfied by our present capability and were looking towards the future.

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25X1

7. Edwards Air Force Base, California

a. A tour of the CHALICE facility at Edwards included the writer's first opportunity to observe [ ] various ARDC aircraft. A discussion was held with [ ] concerning the painting of a U-2 aircraft to disguise its presence in the atmosphere. One aircraft has been painted a navy blue and tests of this vehicle indicate that it is practically impossible to observe from the ground while flying at maximum altitude. When viewed from above, the aircraft takes on a grayish appearance and is likewise difficult to locate. The unit is not satisfied to the fullest and is continuing in their experiments with paints of various colors with the hope of improving the present method. [ ] noted that one aircraft

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returned from SAC had evidence of metal pitting due to its exposure to the salt air. He thought it quite logical to explain any paint operations as being a measure towards preventing metal erosion to aircraft currently assigned abroad.

b. The balance of the tour consisted of the writer being introduced to new personalities and a general review of ARDC/CHALICE relationship. In connection with the latter, there appears to be a considerable problem in the number of visits being made to the ARDC base by persons having lower category clearances.

8. The writer wishes to note that the trip was extremely worthwhile, and the opportunity to view these various facilities gave me a firsthand opportunity to uncover problems which should have been of my concern. Having never seen some of the work which is being conducted at [redacted] Edwards and Lockheed, I could not visualize the problems that were peculiar to these installations either separately or collectively. To review the CORONA cover story with technically-qualified people will result in an improved cover story, and the suggested visit to Patrick Air Force Base will most certainly demonstrate many of the problem areas which we have yet to face. Those areas of this report which indicate action by members of the DPS staff have been verbally referred to responsible officers and further action as a result of this report remains with the writer.

15/  
[redacted]  
Cover Officer  
DPS/DCI

[redacted]  
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